

**MINUTES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 5:00 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Trustee	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Vice Chair	Robert Weston, Executive Director of Human Resources
	Mark Gifford, Trustee	Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Guests:
		Members of the Public
	Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record	
REGRETS	Mary Lalji, Trustee	

Chair Dhaliwal recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nations, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

1. Approval of Agenda

Trustee Beattie asked that Trustee Dhaliwal chair the meeting on her behalf.

The following motion was introduced for consideration by the Trustees as the Board of Education:

2020-048

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve that the 2020-21 Board and Committee meetings may be held, as needed, via videoconference and/or a hybrid of videoconference and in-person, according to COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the September 15, 2020 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Comment and Question Period

Nil.

3. Reports from Senior Management

a. COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided an overview of the current status of the September Restart Plan:

- The District's priorities during the pandemic are set out in its Guiding Principles:
 - Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, staff and families;
 - Provided the services needed to support the children of our essential workers;
 - Support Vulnerable students who may need special assistance;
 - Provide continuity of educational opportunity for all students.

- Currently in Stage 2, the District's cohort/learning group sizes are well within the recommended targets.
- The June 2020 survey feedback was briefly highlighted; the primary concern expressed was regarding the use of multiple platforms for online learning. The District is now moving away from using Google and has recently upgraded to Office 365 and the use of Microsoft Teams.
- Executive Director of Human Resources Weston provided a brief overview of the WorkSafeBC initiatives relating to COVID-19 and the various health and safety protocols introduced in the District. An updated Health and Safety Plan will be released this week.
- The Stage 2 Restart Plan was reviewed. Highlights included:
 - Learning Groups & Distancing
 - Masks & Face Coverings
 - Controlling Access & New Safety Protocols
 - Hand & Respiratory Hygiene
 - Cleaning & Disinfection
- Safe Return to School Grant (Provincial) and Actions Taken
 - One-time funding for safe return to school grant - to handle cost pressures as a result of new required health and safety measures:
 - District's share is \$488,210 and is comprised of:
 - Custodial staffing: \$269,238 (5 additional custodians hired)
 - Hand hygiene: \$107,344 (30 portable pump wash stations added)
 - Cleaning supplies: \$59,701
 - Reusable masks: \$26,241 (2 reusable face masks for all employees and students in middle and secondary school – 10,000 masks; 1,500 child-size masks for K-5, if requested)
 - Technology: \$25,686 (online support – loaning of computers or software; working on a strategy to best apply these funds)
- Safe Return to Class (Federal Funding): \$2,548,446 was made available to the District; some flexibility in being able to spend these funds. The District is still working through prioritizing the expenditure of these funds, however, it will generally look like this:
 - \$1,543,750 allocated for the implementation of online and remote learning options including internet access; hiring additional teachers and staff; health and safety training for staff.
 - \$978,696 for health and safety such as costs related to meet health & safety guidelines in schools; installing plexiglass and other barriers; outdoor learning spaces and adapting classrooms and school buses to minimize physical contact; improving air systems in schools; purchasing additional cleaning supplies; purchasing additional masks, face shields or other personal protective equipment.
 - \$6,000 for supporting students with special needs who may have mobility challenges through the provision of school bus rides.
 - \$nil for before and after school care, the District's partners in providing care have sufficiently met the demand for before and after school care.
- Mental health supports for schools, at the time of writing, school districts had not yet received their allocations. However, the District expects to receive \$23K (based on FTE allocations). Based on reports, districts will determine how funds are best used to support students.

Associate Superintendent Naser indicated that in-person and Distributed Learning (DL) options are available to accommodate unique family circumstances. The school nutrition program will return on September 21 with a family-friendly meal plan; meal delivery and packaging will follow COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Strong Start Centres are available by appointment, with distancing measures in place.

Distributed Learning (online) and Home Learners Program (HLP) registrations' list is changing daily. At the time of this meeting, 491 students were registered online; 38 in Home Learning Program; Adult Learning: 88 full-time students and 118 part-time online students. Students who have registered for any of these 2020-21 learning options will remain connected to their home schools and it is hoped that they will be able to rejoin their schools next year for in-class instruction.

Executive Director of Human Resources Weston provided an update on the status of staffing of the online option. Teachers who requested accommodation were divided into two groups: first group with those who were able to be accommodated in the school i.e. with the addition of plexiglass barriers, etc.; and the second group who were not able to go into the classroom. The second group comprises 8.2 FTE who have been assigned to DL; this is in addition to the 9 FTE who were already assigned to DL, totaling 17.2 FTE. An office has been setup for DL instructors at NWSS. HLP staffing has increased to 4.3 FTE from 3.6 FTE and support staff has also been enhanced at HLP and the counselling centre at NWSS.

Associate Superintendent Naser explained that classroom density (class-size limits) are being met, nearly all classes are below the learning groups' size recommendations. Students are being reconnected with their respective counsellors; to ensure that counselling is supported within their schools; where necessary, a district counsellor will be connected to the DL program.

i. "Good things are happening"

Superintendent Hachlaf briefly spoke about the annual report, which will be reviewed in greater detail at the September 29, 2020 Board meeting.

b. 2020-21 Board Annual Workplan-Board Policy 2-Appendix A

Superintendent Hachlaf reviewed the 2020-21 Board Annual Workplan.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to adopt the School District No. 40 (New Westminster) revised Board Policy 2 - Appendix A: Board Annual Workplan for 2020-2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. General Announcements

World Teachers' Day - October 5

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:58pm.